

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended): A bucket attachment for extending the operable width of a main bucket of a loader, the main bucket having a front facing open front, a closed back, and opposed sides, the bucket attachment comprising:

an open front, a closed back, and first and second opposed sides, at least one of the opposed sides being a closed side,

pivotal attachment means for pivotally connecting the bucket attachment to the main bucket, the pivotal attachment means comprising a planar member attached to one of the opposed sides of the main bucket, complementary hinge portions mounted at the open front of the main bucket and the bucket attachment and having a substantially vertical axis, a hinge pin received in the complementary hinge portions for pivotally connecting the main bucket to the bucket attachment,

the pivotal attachment means for permitting the bucket attachment to pivot from a closed, stored position in which the bucket attachment is pivoted so that the open front of the bucket attachment faces the open front of the main bucket, to an open, operable position in which the bucket attachment has the open front of the bucket attachment facing the same direction as the front facing open front of the main bucket.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended): The bucket attachment of claim 21 and further comprising locking means for securely retaining the bucket attachment in the open, operable position.

4. (original): The bucket attachment of claim 3 wherein the locking means comprises a first cylindrical member on the main bucket and a second cylindrical member on the bucket attachment, the first and second cylindrical members aligned with each other when the bucket attachment is in the open, operable position, and a pin inserted through the aligned first and second cylindrical members for retaining the first and second cylindrical members in a locked position.

5. (currently amended): The bucket attachment of claim 1 and further comprising a second bucket attachment comprising an open front, a closed back, and opposed sides, at least one of the opposed sides being a closed side, second pivotal attachment means for pivotally connecting the second bucket attachment to the main bucket, the second pivotal attachment means comprising a second planar member attached to the other of the opposed sides of the main bucket, complementary second hinge portions mounted at the open front of the main bucket and the second bucket attachment and having a substantially vertical axis, a second hinge pin received in the second complementary hinge portions for pivotally connecting the main bucket to the second bucket attachment, the second pivotal attachment means for permitting the second bucket attachment to pivot from a closed, stored position in which the second bucket attachment is pivoted so that the open front of the second bucket attachment faces the open front of the main bucket, to an open, operable position in which the second bucket attachment has the open front of the second bucket attachment facing the same direction as the front facing open front of the main bucket.

6. (original): The bucket attachment of claim 5 and further comprising second locking means for securely retaining the second bucket extension in the open, operable position.

Claims 7-12 (cancelled)

13. (currently amended): A combination main bucket of a loader and bucket attachment for extending the operable width of the main bucket, in which the main bucket has an open front, a closed back, and opposed first and second sides, the open front and front sides defining main bucket side edges, the bucket attachment comprising:

 a left bucket attachment having an open front, a closed back, and first and second opposed sides, at least one of the opposed sides being a closed side and the other opposed side defining a left bucket attachment side edge,

 a right bucket attachment having an open front, a closed back, and first and second opposed sides, at least one of the opposed sides being a closed side and the other opposed side defining a right bucket attachment side edge,

first pivotal attachment means on one of the main bucket side edges for pivotally connecting the left bucket attachment to one side of the main bucket, the first pivotal attachment means comprising a planar member attached to the first side of the main bucket, complementary hinge portions mounted on the left bucket attachment side edge and one of the main bucket side edges,

second pivotal attachment means on the other of the main bucket edges for pivotally connecting the right bucket attachment to the other side of the main bucket, the second complementary hinge portions mounted on the right bucket attachment side edge and the other of the main bucket side edges,

the complementary hinge portions having substantially vertical axes, a hinge pin received in each of the complementary hinge portion and second complementary hinge portion for pivotally connecting the main bucket to the left and right bucket attachments,

the first and second pivotal attachment means for permitting the left and right bucket attachments to pivot from a closed, stored position in which the bucket attachment is pivoted so that the open front of the bucket attachment faces the open front of the main bucket, to an open, operable position in which the bucket attachment has the open front of the bucket attachment facing the same direction as the front facing open front of the main bucket.

Claims 14 and 15 (cancelled)

16. (original): The bucket attachment of claim 13 and further comprising locking means for securely retaining the bucket attachments in the open, operable position.

17. (original): The bucket attachment of claim 13 wherein the locking means comprises a pair of first cylindrical members on the main bucket and a pair of second cylindrical members, one on each of the bucket attachments, the first and second cylindrical members aligned with each other when the bucket attachments are in the open, operable position, and a pin inserted through the aligned first and second cylindrical members for retaining the first and second cylindrical members in a locked position.